

REMARKS

Summary

Claims 1-3 and 7-10 were pending. Claims 1 and 9 have been rewritten, Claims 11-13 added, and Claim 8 cancelled. No new matter has been added as a result of this amendment. Claims 1-3, 7, and 9-13 are pending after entry of this amendment.

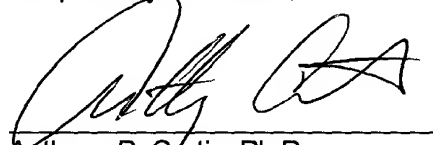
Rejection of Claims

In the Office Action of May 29, 2003, Claims 1-3, 7 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 06-67032. Claims 8 and 9 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim but the Examiner indicated they would be allowable if rewritten in an independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have rewritten Claim 1 to incorporate the elements of Claim 8, cancelled Claim 8, and rewritten Claim 9 to depend on Claim 1. Applicants have added Claim 11, which corresponds to the incorporation of objected to Claim 9 with Claims 1 and 2, and added Claims 12 and 13, which correspond to Claims 7 and 10. Applicants submit that rewritten Claim 1 overcomes the Examiner's rejection and thus Claims 1-3, 7, and 9-13 are in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

In view of the amendments and arguments above, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance and seek an early allowance thereof. If for any reason the Examiner is unable to allow the application in the next Office Action and believes that a telephone interview would be helpful to resolve any remaining issues, he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned agent or attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anthony P. Curtis', is written over a horizontal line.

Anthony P. Curtis, Ph.D.
Registration No. 46,193
Agent for Applicant

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE
P.O. BOX 10395
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60610
(312) 321-4200